

March 15, 2007

Health Technology Clinical Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Appointment

Steve Hill, Administrator of the Health Care Authority, is pleased to announce that two Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) members have accepted has appointments as chair and vice chair. The clinical committee is an independent group of eleven health care practitioners who will make coverage decisions about selected health technologies based on an evidence report. The appointed chair and vice chair bring an excellent combination of talent, experience, and knowledge to bear on directing the committee's work, and both share a passion for evidence based medicine. The chair and vice chair are:

Chair – Brian Budenholzer, M.D., FAAFP:

Brian Budenholzer is a family physician in Spokane, Washington. He graduated from the University of Southern California - School of Medicine in 1980 and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He trained as a family physician in Charleston, SC. He has been honored as a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Budenholzer continues to embrace the joy of giving medical care to families – from birth to old age including an active practice of prenatal care and delivering babies. Dr. Budenholzer is trained in evidence-based medicine and provides evidence-based medicine expertise in his work for Group Health. He began his medical career providing medical care to Navajo Indians serving with the Indian Health Service in New Mexico. He joined Group Health in 1986 and has been their regional director of Clinical Enhancement and Development since 1994. He has been an evidence-based medicine section editor for two medical journals. When not practicing medicine Dr. Budenholzer loves to ski, travel and spend time with his wife and children. This year he is thrilled that his daughter's high school won the Washington state 4A boy's basketball championship.

Vice chair – C. Craig Blackmore, M.D., MPH:

Craig Blackmore is Professor of Radiology and Adjunct Professor of Health Services at the University of Washington (UW) and co-director of the UW Radiology Health Services Research Section. His research interests include cost-effectiveness and outcomes analysis of radiology imaging studies and evidence-based use of imaging. His work has focused on imaging in spine trauma and pelvic fractures. Blackmore received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1990, and a master's in public health from the University of Washington in 1997, through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. He completed a Diagnostic Radiology residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Dr. Blackmore is a co-editor for the text: *Evidence Based Imaging: Optimizing Imaging for Patient Care*, and has published over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has also served on the Editorial Boards of the journals *Academic Radiology*, *AJR*, and the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*. Dr. Blackmore has delivered numerous lectures on evidence based imaging in the US and Europe.

Program Background: The HTA is a new program created by legislation in 2006 as part of Governor Gregoire's five point strategy to make the state a leader in the way it buys and uses health care. This program determines if health services used by state government are safe and effective. The focus of the program is to rely on scientific, or evidence-based, information about safety, effectiveness and cost to inform decision and improve quality. The Committee will make coverage and reimbursement decisions about selected health technologies (medical equipment, devices, and diagnostic tests) based on an evidence report. For additional information about the program and committee, please contact Denise Santoyo, HTA Program Coordinator; or please visit www.hta.hca.wa.gov.